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LETCWORTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LETCWORTH



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health


for the year

1953

including the

REPORT

OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Letchworth
Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman,

At the request of the Ministry of Health, and in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Orders, the following report is submitted. It is the thirty-fifth annual report on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics of your district.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1953

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H. (also Divisional
M.O., Herts C.C.)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

ARTHUR JUMP, F.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

ALWYNE FIRTH, M.S.I.A.

HARRY KNIGHTON, M.S.I.A. (resigned December)

KENNETH A. BENNETT, M.S.I.A.

STANLEY PAPE, M.S.I.A.

CLERICAL ASSISTANTS :

MISS V. A. PAMMENTER

R. E. GRAY

DISINFECTOR AND RODENT OPERATIVE :

L. CARR

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the district is 4,897 acres.

Inhabited Houses. There were 6,257 occupied dwellings according to the rate books at 31st December.

Population. The Registrar General estimates the civilian population for mid year 1953 to be 21,260, an increase of 220 persons.

Rateable Value. The rateable value is estimated to be £175,651 and the product of the penny rate is £714.

Vital Statistics *Births*

		Total	Males	Females
Live births :	Legitimate ...	312	152	160
	Illegitimate ...	7	3	4
Totals ...		<hr/> 319 <hr/>	<hr/> 155 <hr/>	<hr/> 164 <hr/>

The birth rate is 15.0, which compares with that of 15.5 for England and Wales. Last year the rate was 14.4.

		Total	Males	Females
Still births :	Legitimate ...	2	1	1
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	—
Totals ...		<hr/> 3 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>

The still birth rate per thousand live and still births is 9.3 and compares with the rate of 22.4 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Total 200, Males 101, Females 99.

Ten more than last year. The crude death rate is 9.4 and the corrected death rate is 9.8 per thousand civilian population compared with 11.4 for England and Wales.

Death from Puerperal causes. None and the maternal mortality rate is therefore nil.

Infant Mortality

		Under four weeks	Total under one year
Legitimate	...	5	7
Illegitimate	...	—	—
		—	—
Totals	...	5	7
		—	—

The rate per thousand live births is 22.0 and compares with the rate of 26.8 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were :

Ref. No.					Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	1
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	2	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	3	4
11	„ „ lung bronchus	...	...	...	2	1
12	„ „ breast	...	...	...	—	5
13	„ „ uterus	...	...	...	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	15	6
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	16	13
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	18	15
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	1
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	8	23
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	6	5
22	Influenza	...	...	...	—	5
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	4
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	2
25	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	1
26	Ulcer, stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—
28	Nephritis, and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	7	7
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	2
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	1
35	Suicide	...	...	...	3	—
					—	—
	Totals all causes	...	...	...	101	99

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year; there were no deaths from diphtheria, measles, whooping cough or from diarrhoea (under two years of age).

Tables I, II and III give comparative vital statistics for the years 1948 to 1953 inclusive. Death rates and birth rates are year; there were no deaths from diphtheria, measles, whooping unless otherwise stated.

TABLE I

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Cancer						
No. of deaths:						
Males	19	14	15	18	22	20
Females	15	19	22	16	18	17
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.7
Puerperal Causes						
No. of deaths	1	—	—	—	—	—
Death rate, 1,000 births ...	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
No. of cases notified:						
Males	7	11	36	50	105	75
Females	12	7	10	25	27	28
Attack rate, 1,000 pop. ...	0.9	0.88	0.33*	0.48*	1.0*	0.66*
No. of deaths:						
Males	7	3	3	—	—	—
Females	2	1	3	—	2	1
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.4	0.2	0.29	0.0	0.1	0.1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
No. of cases notified:						
Males	2	1	1	3	2	2
Females	—	—	2	2	1	4
Attack rate, 1,000 pop. ...	0.1	0.04	0.14	0.24	0.0*	0.1*
No. of deaths:						
Males	—	3	—	—	—	—
Females	—	—	1	—	—	—
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.0	0.1	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.0

* Based on number of local new cases (1953—pulmonary 14, non-pulmonary 2).

TABLE II

URBAN DISTRICT OF LETCHWORTH

	1921	1931	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	census	census				census		
No. of inhabited houses December 31	2,708	3,897	5,455	5,621	5,777	5,887	6,045	6,257
Population—local estimate ...	10,832	14,808	20,261	20,797	20,800	20,750	21,036	21,273
No. of live births ...	219	217	320	337	296	337	304	319
Birth rate (based on local estimate of population) ...	20.2	14.6	15.8	16.2	14.2	16.2	14.4	15.0
No. of infant deaths ...	12	9	12	9	7	8	10	7
Infant mortality ...	55	41.4	37	27	14	24	32.9	22
Maternal mortality ...	—	17.7	3.0	—	—	—	—	—
No. of deaths ...	77	105	176	202	179	200	190	200
Death rate (local estimate of population): ...	7.1	7	8.6	9.7	8.6	9.6	9.0	9.4
Crude				10.6	9.4	10.4	9.8	9.8
Corrected								
Population—Registrar General's estimate ...	10,302	14,454	19,950	20,330	20,730	20,321	21,040	21,260
Birth rate (based on Registrar General's estimate of population):	21.3	15.0	16.0	16.6	14.3	16.3	14.4	15.0
Corrected					13.5	15.4	13.6	15.0
Death rate (based on Registrar General's estimate of population):								
Crude	7.5	7.2	8.8	9.9	8.6	9.7	9.0	9.4
Corrected				10.8	9.4	10.5	9.8	9.8

TABLE III

ENGLAND AND WALES

	1921	1931	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	census	census				census		
Birth Rate ...	22.4	15.8	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5
Death rate ...	12.1	12.3	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4
Infant mortality	83	66	34	32	30	29.6	27.6	26.8

One hundred and sixty smaller towns (25,000—50,000)

England and Wales

Birth rate ...	22.7	15.6	19.2	18.0	16.7	16.7	15.5	15.7
Death rate ...	—	11.3	10.7	11.6	11.6	12.5	11.2	12.2
Infant mortality	84	62	32	30	29.4	27.6	25.8	30.8

LETCHWORTH URBAN

Birth rate (crude)	21.3	15.0	16.0	16.6	14.3	16.3	14.4	15.0
(corrected)					13.5	15.4	13.6	15.0
Death rate (crude)	7.5	7.8	8.8	9.9	8.6	9.7	9.0	9.4
(corrected)				10.8	9.4	10.5	9.8	9.8
Infant mortality	55	41	37	27	14	24	32.9	22.0

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(i) *Staff.* See list at front of Report.

For details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors reference should be made to the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) *Other services.*

Treatment Centres and Clinics. The Urban Council is responsible for the treatment of scabies and a clinic continues to be held as often as necessary at the Health Office in Gernon Road. Arrangements have been made with the Baldock Urban, Hitchin Urban and Hitchin Rural Councils for treatment of cases from their districts.

Section 47 National Assistance Act 1948. No action taken during the period.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) *Water.* Extensive works to the Fuller bore-hole were in progress during the year.

In response to circular 170/47, issued by the Ministry of Health, I submit the following information :

- (i) (a) The supply has been satisfactory in quality.
- (b) The supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
- (ii) The supply is sampled bacteriologically every two weeks, the samples being taken systematically at the pumping stations and from various points in the area of supply. The results are uniformly satisfactory. Chemical analyses are taken every four weeks and show little variation.
- (iii) There is no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) The supply is subjected to chlorination.
- (v) With the exception of five cottages at Radwell in the extreme north-east, and two houses and a petrol filling station and cafe at Jack's Hill to the south-west, all the properties in the Urban District are provided with a direct piped supply of water from the Company's mains. There are no standpipes. The supplies from the private wells are kept under observation.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.* Works in connection with the scheme for the enlargement of the sewage works continued.

2. *Rivers and Streams.* No change.

3. (i) *Closet accommodation.* No change.

(ii) *Public cleansing.* The whole of this work is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor. The house refuse is disposed of by "controlled tipping" at the Arlesey clay pits in the Biggleswade rural district.

(iii), (iv), (v) and (viii). These matters are fully dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(vii) *Swimming baths and pools.* (a) Public. The open-air swimming pool in the Norton Common continues to be well patronized, and there were 75,705 attendances during the year. A series of samples were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory, and the staff are again to be congratulated on maintaining a consistently high hygienic standard.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	54	37	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	133	147	26	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	11	7	1	—
Total	—	198	191	32	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out- workers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of Prosec- utions	Section 110		Section 111	
				No. of out- workers in August list	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing } Making, etc.	13	—	—	19	—	—	—
apparel } Cleaning and Washing	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets	16	—	—	27	—	—	—
Total	46	—	—	46	—	—	—

2.—Cases in which *defects* were found

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	3	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)						
... ..	12	24	27	2	1	—
Total ...	—	31	33	2	3	—

SECTION D. HOUSING

During 1953 the following premises were erected and occupied :

Council Schemes

Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Flats	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

Other Persons

Houses and Bungalows	26
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Total	...	188
-------	-----	-----

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	159
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					284
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	...	...	...	32
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					53
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...			nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	12

Action under Statutory powers during the years :

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :						
	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	nil

(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936	nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	nil

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	20
---	--------	----

Housing Act 1936—Overcrowding :

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	3
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	33
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	10
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :	
	(i) Number of cases	nil
	(ii) Number of families concerned	nil
	(iii) Number of persons	nil

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat, Milk and other Foods.

Full details of the work carried out will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. There is now only

one manufacturer of ice cream and the sample results proved satisfactory.

Clean Food Campaigns.

There was no special campaign. Food shops and food preparing places are regularly inspected and opportunity is then taken to give advice on the clean handling of food to the personnel concerned.

(1) The types of food premises in Letchworth are as follows: Butchers, 17; cafes, refreshment houses and snack bars, 18; confectioners, 25; dairies, 5; fish shops, 3; green-grocers and fruiterers, 10; grocers and provision merchants, 27; food warehouses, 3; bakehouses, 5; mineral water manufacturer, 1; potato crisp manufacturer, 1; margarine manufacturer, 1; dehydrated food manufacturer, 1; bacon factory and meat product manufacturer, 1; school canteens, 11; factory canteens (serving snacks 34), (main meals 23).

(2) Premises registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act: Sale and manufacture of ice cream, 40; manufacture of sausages and meat products (preserved food), 20; registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, dairies 6; retailers with premises outside the district 2.

(3) See report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(4) No new educational activity.

(5) Salvaged if possible and treated in proper digester plant; otherwise burnt or destroyed.

(6) Special examinations. There is one large meat product manufacturer in Letchworth and it is normal to have to carry out special examinations of imported beef and mutton and offals. Typical examples are (1) forty bags frozen boneless Australian beef examined for onchocerciasis, and (2) sixty-five bags imported liver, thirty bags ox kidneys and fifteen bags ox hearts examined for general conditions.

Food Poisoning

(a) Outbreaks due to identified agents:

Total outbreaks, nil; total cases, nil.

(b) Outbreaks of undiscovered cause:

Total outbreaks, nil; total cases, nil.

(c) Single cases:

Agent identified, nil; unknown cause, nil; total, nil.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

For the year 1953 totals of notified cases of infectious diseases (after correction) were : Measles 304, whooping cough 113, acute pneumonia 16, scarlet fever 8, dysentery 1, erysipelas 5, infectious hepatitis 3, and meningococcal infection 1.

There was epidemic prevalence of measles in the first quarter and moderate frequency of whooping cough mainly in the third quarter. Scarlet fever cases were few in number and sporadic in distribution, with mild case severity and of age incidence confined to 4—9 year group.

Acute pneumonia cases again occurred mainly in the first quarter.

No case of poliomyelitis or of food poisoning was confirmed within the urban district during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING THE YEAR

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
			Non-				Non-	
	Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	27(26)	15(13)	—(1)	—(2)	—	—	—	—
25—35	35(33)	8(8)	—(1)	2	—	—	—	—
35—45	7(6)	3(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	75(65)	28(24)	2(2)	4(2)	2	1	—	—

Deaths allocated by Registrar General
after final transfers

1

Footnote: Figures of new cases include inward transfers for other areas, which figure is indicated separately in brackets.

It can be seen that the totals are again markedly swollen by inward transfers, mainly of quiescent cases undergoing retrain-

ing at the local Government Training Centre. The actual total of new cases notified was 16 against 22 in the previous year.

After final transfers one death from respiratory disease was allocated to the district against two in 1952.

CONCLUSION

All local mortality rates are again favourable, though the local birth rate is again somewhat lower than would be expected for a population of under-the-average age distribution.

I would again acknowledge every help from the chief officers of your Council and particularly my indebtedness to your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Arthur Jump, for his unfailing helpfulness and local knowledge. The completion of this report is again made easy by his most valuable assistance.

I am, gentlemen,

V. R. WALKER,

District M.O.H.

May 1954.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I submit my twenty-third Annual Report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. The only change in staff occurred in December when Mr. Harry Knighton resigned, having obtained an appointment in Iraq. Mr. Knighton had served with the department since September, 1951, and had proved himself as an able inspector and a good colleague.

Housing

One Cottage Society continued with its scheme of reconditioning, including the provision of bathrooms, hot water, and internal sanitation. The problem of the rent controlled cottage is still with us and under present circumstances even minor repairs can prove a costly matter for the owner.

Very few cases of vermin came to our notice and there is no doubt that modern treatment methods are effectively dealing with the problem. Apart from woodworm, there was little trouble with insect pests but cases of woodworm infestation that have been neglected often prove difficult.

There are now very few cases of overcrowding or bad living conditions in the town, and this is due in the main to the Council's policy in the provision and allocation of houses. During 1953 forty-one such cases were relieved by accommodation granted by the Housing Lettings Sub-Committee. Nine cases were dealt with in other ways.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

Meat inspection duties in Letchworth are onerous, and the numbers slaughtered continue to increase. The average kill of pigs during 1953 exceeded 2,400 a week. To give some indication as to the amount of work entailed in Letchworth the normal killing for the town could be described as equal to 55 beast slaughtering units per week. During 1953 the number of animals slaughtered = 1,490 slaughtering units weekly, in other words equal to the requirements for a population of a district more than twenty times greater.

With regard to *cysticercus bovis*, the special examination

continues, and 136 cases were found during the year, giving an incidence rate of 3.2%.

In 68 cases lesions were found in the head and were confined to the head in 58 cases.

In 80 cases lesions were found in the heart and were confined to that organ in 66 instances.

In 5 cases lesions were found in the diaphragm and were confined to that part in 4 cases.

In 4 cases there were 2 lesions in the head and in 1 case 4 lesions.

In 11 cases there were 2 lesions in the heart and in 3 cases 3 lesions and in 1 case 14 lesions.

In 2 cases there were 3 lesions in the diaphragm.

In 10 cases lesions were found in both heart and head.

In 4 cases lesions were found in both heart and diaphragm.

Supervisory work in connection with Food Byelaws continued and at a number of establishments further improvements were made. The policy of giving advice to food handlers during routine supervisory visits continues and in my view is a most effective means.

With regard to the milk supply, the results of milk samples proved very satisfactory. There are three pasteurising establishments in the district and an effective liaison was maintained with the County staff and the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In only one case is ice cream manufactured in the district, the remainder being made outside Letchworth by large concerns specialising in its production. The sample results were satisfactory.

General Sanitation, Nuisances, etc.

As in previous years complaints of nuisances continue to be varied and include many matters that cannot be dealt with under the Public Health Acts. The Pix brook is liable to pollution and every effort was made during the year to keep the pollution down to a minimum.

The Municipal caravan site on the Grange Estate continues to be used in a satisfactory manner, but a great deal of time had to be expended during the year in dealing with nomad

caravan dwellers using old highways and waste land as camping sites. With the co-operation of the County Police all these cases were dealt with as quickly as possible.

Atmospheric Pollution by Smoke and Fumes

This received much attention during the year, no less than 106 official observations being made. The smoke emitted from factory chimneys is much more obvious than that from domestic chimneys, but it must be remembered that the latter is responsible for most of the pollution in any district. Much of the industrial smoke pollution is due to (a) inefficient stoking; (b) type of fuel used; and (c) overloading of the boiler installation. In a number of cases, to deal effectively with the problem heavy capital cost is involved, and this type of remedy is not easy of achievement.

Rodent Control

As in other years most of the infestations proved of a minor character and the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries showed little change. The Council's undertakings received regular attention but there is little infestation of the sewers.

Infectious Disease

Normal investigations were carried out and although no cases of food poisoning were notified a considerable number of enquiries had to be made during the year.

Swimming Bath and Paddling Pool

Samples were taken regularly throughout the season and all the results were satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, Section 50

Two cases were dealt with during the year. This work entails considerable time and many difficulties have to be overcome.

Factories and Workplaces

In Letchworth the duties are somewhat greater than in the average town and a considerable amount of work was done during the year. Attention was paid to canteen facilities and these now are of good standard.

STATISTICAL RECORDS

1st January—31st December, 1953

GENERAL (under Public Health and Housing Acts) :

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	127
Houses reinspected under Public Health Acts	104
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	32
Houses reinspected under Housing Acts	21
Houses visited re defective dustbins	10
Housing Survey : Form A primary	—
" " " A secondary	17
" " " B primary	24
" " " B secondary	—
Visits re number of occupants	50
Movable dwellings inspected	138
Movable dwelling sites inspected	284
Nuisances investigated	170
Systematic investigations of district	39
Investigations re water supply	32
" re watercourses and ditches	63
" re sewers	76
" re industrial effluvia	12
" re industrial effluents	12
" re pigeons	1
" re poultry keeping	5
Visits and inspections of entertaining premises	5
" " " of swimming baths	12
" " " of paddling pool	8
" " " of waterworks	13
" " " of burial grounds	1
Smoke observations	106
Drains—smoke tested	24
Drains—water tested	30
Drains—colour tested	17
Visits to works outstanding and in progress	167
Visits to stables	3
Visits to piggeries	22
Visits to refuse tips	80

Visits re rodent infestation	...	...	...	...	1058
Rat investigations in sewers	...	...	...	...	156
Visits to public conveniences	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	379
Samples of effluent submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ water submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ swimming bath water	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ paddling pool water	...	...	...	...	6
Building licensing	...	...	...	...	—
Food control	...	...	...	...	36
Food waste collection and salvage	...	...	...	...	5
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	14
Hostels	...	...	...	...	34

(c) *Infestations*

				Council Houses	Other Houses	Visits
Bugs	...	...	...	5	16	31
Fleas	...	...	...	1	1	4
Lice	...	...	...	—	—	—
Beetles and cackroaches	...	...	...	4	34	65
Flies	...	...	...	1	5	11
Mosquitoes	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other pests	...	...	...	51	78	223

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

Meat depot	...	310	Food preparing places	54		
Butchers' shops	...	93	Dairy vehicles	...	53	
Butchers' vans	...	21	Cowsheds	...	...	2
Fish shops	...	45	Ice-cream vendors	...	...	110
Other food shops	...	151	Hawkers of other	...	...	...
Cafes	...	...	foods	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	36	Canteens	...	...	30
Dairies	...	...	Hotels	...	...	14

(b) *Carcases examined*

(1) At Abbatoir :

Cows	...	...	781	Calves	...	...	1,171
Heifers	...	...	1,370	Sheep	...	...	10,301
Bulls	...	...	46	Pigs	...	...	135,661
Bullocks	...	...	2,035	Goats	...	...	—

(2) At shops, other premises and vans :

Beef Qs.				Calves	...	...	4
(i) English	...	101		Sheep	...	...	21
(ii) Imported...		47		Pigs	...	...	18
Boneless mutton		—		Poultry	...	...	—

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food*

(1) At Abbatoir :

12 cow carcasses	8 lbs. English veal
29 other beasts carcasses	8 calves' heads
24 forequarters English beef	15 „ plucks
1 hindquarter English beef	4 „ lungs
2 sides English beef	1 „ heart
3,371 lbs. English beef	7 „ livers
373 beasts' heads	24 „ kidneys
1,349 „ lungs	8 „ mesenteries
217 „ hearts	7 „ spleens
828 „ livers	6 „ guts
245 „ kidneys	22 „ other organs
454 „ mesenteries	261 pig carcasses
223 „ spleens	143 forequarters English pork
383 „ guts	48 hindquarters English pork
1,507 „ other organs	10,507 lbs. English pork
7 calf carcasses	4,655 pigs' heads
3 forequarters English veal	2,430 „ plucks
	25,723 „ lungs
	2,455 „ hearts
	8,436 „ livers

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food—(cont.)*

4,693	pigs' kidneys	65	sheeps' lungs
4,799	.. mesenteries	8	.. hearts
4,484	.. spleens	576	.. livers
4,700	.. guts	61	.. kidneys
13	sheeps' carcasses	12	.. mesenteries
11	forequarters Eng-	13	.. spleens
	lish mutton	12	.. guts
11	hindquarters Eng-	215	.. other organs
	lish mutton		
127	lbs. English mutton		
26	sheeps' heads		Total weight :
49	.. plucks		284,646 lbs.

(2) At wholesale depot, shops and vans :

45	c.c. beef	150	sheeps' plucks
156	c.c. pork	20	.. guts
2	c.c. brawn	7	lbs. veal
6	c.c. tongue	200	lbs. mesenteries
147	cans meat products	4	sheeps' plucks
672	lbs. English beef	10	lbs. pigs' carcasses
124	lbs. Imported beef	221	lbs. English pork
1	hindquarter beef	2	pigs' heads
2	beasts' heads	2	.. plucks
18	.. lungs	7	.. livers
2	.. livers	284	cans milk
127	lbs. .. liver	2	cartons dried milk
2	.. hearts	1½	lbs. butter
36	.. spleens	1,428	pkts. processed cheese
120	lbs. .. kidneys	426	cans vegetables
72	sheeps' heads	615	cans fruit
35	cans fish	82	pkts. corn flakes
3	fish fillets	9	lbs. jam
2	lbs. brawn	15	lbs. preserve
424	lbs. sausages	1	lb. coffee
930	lbs. ham	8	pkts. sponge mixture
1	case wild rabbits	1	bag flour
2	wild rabbits		

(d) *Slaughter of animals*

Regular notices of slaughter received	1
Notices of occasional or emergency slaughter received	68

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
(EXCLUDING SHOPS)

			Cattle			Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	
			excluding cows	Cows	Calves		Pork	Baconers
No. killed	...	...	3,451	781	1,171	10,301	50,707	84,954
No. inspected	...	...	3,451	781	1,171	10,301	50,707	84,954

**All Diseases except
Tuberculosis**

(1) Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	11	2	5	13	154	76
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	978	393	20	851	7,424	9,697
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis			28.7	50.6	2.1	8.3	14.9	11.5

Tuberculosis only

(1) Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	18	10	2	—	14	17
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	321	172	2	—	2,008	2,627
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	9.8	36.1	0.3	—	4.0	3.1

Cow udder infection. As during previous years an examination was made of the udders of all cows slaughtered, and the results are as follows:

	Ten Years 1944/53		1953
Number of cows slaughtered	11783		781
Tubercular type lesions found in udder and/or supramammary lymphatic glands	404	3.4%	12 = 1.5%
Other udder infection	2203	18.6%	56 = 7.2%
Total udder infection	2607	22.1%	68 = 8.7%
Tubercular cows having mammary lesions	10.9%		6.6%
	(404 in 3709 cases)		(12 in 182 cases)

Applications for licences to slaughter animals	...	21
Number of licences granted to slaughtermen	...	21
Amount of fees received	... ..	£1/1/0

(c) *Milk Supply*

Five farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, two being licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk, and two for the production of Accredited milk. There are eight distributors of milk, five having premises within the urban district. Eight are licensed to retail Tuberculin Tested milk, two retailers are licensed to pasteurize and sell pasteurized milk. One dairy was improved.

Summary of results of milk samples taken :

					Tuberculin Tested milk	Accredited milk
Number taken	...	...	...	...	15	—
Methylene blue test	satisfied	...	...	...	12	—
"	"	failed	...	...	3	—
B. Coli	Absent	in 1/100 ml.	...	...	—	—
	Present	...	...	...	—	—

				Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurized) milk	Pasteurized milk	Ordinary milk
Number taken	...	...	...	28	53	—
Methylene blue test—						
Number submitted			...	17	42	—
Satisfied	...	...	...	17	42	—
Failed	...	...	...	—	—	—
B. Coli—number submitted				...	—	—
Absent in 1/100 ml.				...	—	—
Present				...	—	—

Phosphatase Test—

Number submitted	...	28	53	—
Passed	...	26	44	—
Failed	...	2	9	—

Milk Acidity Tests

Number carried out at office	...	...	...	...	3
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	3
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	—

Special Samples

One taken.

Ice-cream

Methylene Blue Test—

Number submitted	...	...	36	
Classified as Grade I	...	...	22	Satisfactory
Classified as Grade II	...	...	10	
Classified as Grade III	...	...	2	Unsatisfactory
Classified as Grade IV	...	...	2	

B. Coli examination—

Number submitted	...	...	6
Absent in 1/10 gram.	...	...	6
Present in 1/10 gram.	...	...	—

Bacterial count—

Number submitted	...	...	6
Highest count	...	...	920000
Lowest count	...	...	600
Average count	...	...	155667

Chemical examination—

Number submitted	...	...	6	
			% Fat w/w	% Solids not Fat w/w
Highest	...	...	10.85	—
Lowest	4.77	—
Average	8.66	—

Ingredient samples—

Number submitted	6	Satisfactory
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Lollies—

Number submitted	—
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FOOD SAMPLES

Fruit (1 can) : No pathogenic organisms.

(f) *Adulteration*

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this area, the officer being G. F. Hart, Esq., and all complaints of adulterated food are referred to him. Several cases were dealt with, and a most helpful liaison was maintained.

FOOD BY-LAWS

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	...	31
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

General	...	...	...	...	...	54
Re Health Clinic cases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Specimens taken to laboratory	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	11
Nurseries	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of school notices sent	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) *Disinfection*

General cases	...	...	...	...	30	rooms
Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	81	
Schoolrooms	...	...	...	...	—
Hospital Wards	...	...	...	...	—
Vehicles	...	...	...	...	—
Library books	...	...	...	...	23	
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	6	

Disposal of the Dead

National Assistance Act, Section 50—

No. of cases	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of visits	...	...	...	...	...	25

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

			No. on Register	Inspections	Notices
Mechanical factories	...	...	133	132	5
Non-mechanical factories	...	...	54	21	26
Workplaces	...	...	28	16	3
Outworkers	...	...	46	—	—

Defects found and remedied

				Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	—	—
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	2	2
Other nuisances	...	...	...	7	7
Sanitary accommodation—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	2	1
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	1	1
Other offences	...	...	...	14	18
Matters referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	—	—
Matters referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	2	—

PETROLEUM ACTS

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	50
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	2
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	2
Number of licences granted—				
(a) Petroleum spirit and products	...	...	...	44
(b) Carbide of calcium	...	...	...	4

Amount of fees received—£31/1/8.

SHOPS ACTS

Number of shops on Register	...	...	...	—
Visits and inspections	...	...	...	130
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	—
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	—

GAME LICENCES

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	2
Number of licences granted	...	...	...	...	5
Amount of fees received—£1 15/0.					

PET ANIMALS ACT

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	8
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	1
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	1
Number of licences granted	...	...	...	...	1
Amount of fees received—10/-.					

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	2
Number of licences in force	...	...	...	...	1

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS—BY-LAWS

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	29
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	2
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	2

OFFICES

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	20
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	—
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	—

The scope of the work carried out during the year is illustrated by the foregoing records and I thank all members of the staff for their help and keen interest.

ARTHUR JUMP,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Health Office,
Gernon Road,
Letchworth.
March 1954.

